CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method for collecting legacy data from a legacy device in a non-intrusive manner and transmitting it to a comprehensive networked system, comprising the steps of:
   a. reading the legacy output data generated by a legacy device;
   b. transmitting the legacy output data to a system server; and
   c. managing the legacy output data via the system server.

2. The method of claim 1, including the step of assigning an identifier to the legacy output data for defining the type of legacy device.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the identifier also identifies the location of the legacy device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the reading step comprises reading the legacy output data on an RS232 output port of the legacy device.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the reading step comprises reading the legacy output data on a serial output port of the legacy device.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the legacy device includes a processor having open database connectivity and wherein the reading step comprises reading the legacy output data in the database.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein comprehensive networked system includes a server and wherein the legacy device is driven by legacy software, the method further including the initial step of loading the legacy software in the system server and wherein the legacy device output data is transmitted to the server and

managed by the legacy software, and wherein the reading step includes reading the legacy output data transmitted to the server.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the legacy data is transmitted in the transmitting step via the Ethernet.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the networked system includes a camera activated by an event in the camera zone, and wherein an output signal from a legacy device in the zone of the camera will activate the camera.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the networked system includes networked appliances responsive to an event, and wherein an output signal from a legacy device will activate an appliance response.

11. The method of claim 1, including a plurality of legacy devices, each producing a unique legacy output signal, each of which is transmitted to the networked system in the transmitting step.

12. The method of claim 11, including the step of assigning a unique identifier to the legacy output data for defining each legacy device.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein each unique identifier also identifies the unique location of the legacy device.

14. The method of claim 11, including plurality of legacy systems, each system including a legacy device producing a legacy output signal, and wherein the plurality of legacy systems are not compatible with one another.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the legacy output signal is the printer port output signal.

16. An apparatus for collecting legacy data from a legacy device in a non-intrusive manner and transmitting it to a comprehensive networked system, comprising:
    a. network server;
    b. a legacy device having an output port through which a legacy output signal is transmitted;
    c. a transmitter for transmitting the legacy output signal to the network server.
17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the output port is a serial output port.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the output port is an RS232 port.

19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the output port is a printer port.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, the legacy device including open database connectivity and wherein the transmitter device receives the legacy output data from the legacy device database.

21. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the server is adapted for assigning an identifier to the legacy output data for identifying the legacy device.

22. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the transmitter is the Ethernet.

23. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the networked system includes networked appliances responsive to an event, and wherein an output signal from a legacy device will activate an appliance response.

24. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the networked system includes a camera activated by an event in the camera zone, and wherein an output signal from a legacy device in the zone of the camera will activate the camera.

25. The apparatus of claim 15, including a plurality of legacy devices, each producing an unique legacy output signal, each of which is transmitted to the networked system by the transmitter.

26. The apparatus of claim 25, wherein an unique identifier is assigned to each legacy output data for defining each legacy device.

27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein each unique identifier also identifies the unique location of the legacy device.

28. The apparatus of claim 15, including plurality of legacy systems, each system including a legacy device producing a legacy output signal, and wherein the plurality of legacy systems are not compatible with one another.